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DE RUEHHI #0504/01 0621021  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 031021Z MAR 06  
FM AMEMBASSY HANOI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0989  
INFO RUEHHM/AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH CITY PRIORITY 0632  
RUEHZN/ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 2885  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 5458  
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY 0833  
RUEHGX/AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU PRIORITY 0621  
RUEHCN/AMCONSUL CHENGDU PRIORITY 0205  
RUEHRO/USMISSION UN ROME PRIORITY  
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI PRIORITY 1318  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA PRIORITY  
RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEHRC/USDA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP/ISA/AP// PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/CJCS WASHINGTON DC//J2/J3/J5//  
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC//DHO-3//  
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI//J00/J2/J3/J5//  
RHEFAFM/DIRAFMIC FT DETRICK MD//MA-1A//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 HANOI 000504

SIPDIS

STATE FOR G, CA/OCS/ACS/EAP, EAP/EX, EAP/MLS, EAP/EP, INR,  
OES/STC (PBATES), OES/IHA (DSINGER AND NCOMELLA), AND MED

STATE PASS TO USAID FOR ANE AND GH (DCARROLL, SCLEMENTS AND  
PCHAPLIN)

STATE PASS TO USTR (ELENA BRYAN)

STATE PASS TO HHS/OGHA (WSTIEGER, EELVANDER AND ABHAT)

USDA PASS TO APHIS

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA/AP (LSTERN)

BANGKOK FOR RMO, CDC, USAID (MFRIEDMAN AND JMACARTHUR)

ROME FOR FAO

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TBIO](#) [KFLU](#) [AMED](#) [AMGT](#) [CASC](#) [EAGR](#) [PINR](#) [SOCI](#) [VM](#)

SUBJECT: AVIAN INFLUENZA: VIETNAM WEEKLY REPORT MARCH 3

REF: HANOI 431 AND PREVIOUS

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1. (U) Summary. There have been no new human Avian Influenza (AI) deaths since late October 2005 and no human cases over the past 105 days. The Government of Vietnam (GVN) continues to report no AI outbreaks in poultry since the last reported incident on December 17, 2005. The Prime Minister has established a second national steering committee in charge of preventing and combating a potential AI pandemic, this one chaired by the Minister of Health. Post's AI Working Group (AIWG) held a digital video conference (DVC) between Embassy Hanoi and CONGEN HCMC staff. Post's Health Attache, Agriculture Attache and USAID representative will travel to Bangkok on March 6-7 to attend USAID regional AI donor workshop. End Summary.

2. (U) As of March 3, 2006:

-- No human AI deaths since October 29  
-- No new human AI cases in the past 105 days

-- No AI outbreaks in poultry since the last reported incident on Dec. 17, 2005 in Cao Bang Province

13. (U) According to local press reports, the Prime Minister has established a national steering committee in charge of preventing and combating a potential AI pandemic in humans. The steering committee is responsible for outlining plans to coordinate actions of various ministries and branches in the fight against avian influenza in humans and monitoring the implementation of plans against the disease at ministries, sectors and localities. The 21-member committee is led by Minister of Health Tran Thi Trung Chien. According to David Payne of the UNDP, the committee has been meeting regularly under the MOH as an offshoot of GVN's SARS working group. (NOTE: Post is uncertain whether the GVN move aims to leverage donors in the public health sector since the new steering committee's role appears to replicate a pre-existing national AI steering committee chaired by the Minister of Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD).)

14. (U) On March 1, Post's AIWG held a DVC with fourteen Embassy Hanoi staff and five CONGEN HCMC staff including the Acting DCM. The group discussed: harmonizing the existing Emergency Action Plan (EAP) with State MED's comprehensive AI preparedness checklist including the surveillance plan and communications plan; preparations for an AI tabletop exercise; updating AmCits on the Mission's preparedness planning and encouraging locals to take similar efforts in preparedness planning; and logistics of a worst case (tripwire 5) scenario, including stockpiling of foodstuffs and provisions.

15. (U) According to FAS CONGEN staff in HCMC, the ban on live poultry in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) imposed November 11

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still stands. Local authorities will meet March 8 to consider whether to continue the ban. (Note: The press has reiterated that no new human cases of AI have been reported in several months, but that the threat of a pandemic still continues given that several human bird flu infections have been recently detected just over the border in China. End note.)

16. (U) As reported reftel, a nationwide poultry vaccination has been launched and will continue through April. The GVN plans to spend VND100 billion (USD 6.27 million) this year to purchase imported vaccines.

17. (U) Local authorities in Dong Nai Province in southern Vietnam have taken active measures to ban illegal fish farmers from adding potentially harmful pig, bird and human manure, a common fish feed in developing countries, into the Tri An Reservoir, which is a main source of drinking water for greater HCMC. Local press has previously highlighted the potential conflict in water use as the spread of H5N1 has been associated with chicken feces.

18. (U) Live chickens and chicks, which are raised for household use (meat and eggs) and sold in informal wet markets, have re-emerged on the streets of Hanoi. As previously reported (reftel), the occurrence of urban poultry in urban areas will make official control and surveillance of the market chain more challenging.

19. (U) Post's Health Attache, Agriculture Attache and USAID country manager will travel to Bangkok on March 6-7 to attend the USAID regional AI donor workshop.

MARINE